

For Immediate Release

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City Creates Traffic Management Team

Margate, FL, August 12, 2005 – The City of Margate City Commission plans to implement a Traffic Management Team and a Neighborhood Traffic Management Manual, both of which have been developed as a guide that will assist residents when addressing serious traffic-related issues in their individual neighborhoods. Final approval is scheduled for the August 24, 2005 City Commission Meeting.

Margate's traffic manual has two main points. First, it provides information on different types of traffic-calming treatments (speed humps, roundabouts, and modified intersections). Second, it explains how requests for the installation of treatments will be evaluated. Director of Department of Environmental and Engineering Services Emil Esteban stated, "This manual is only guidance and it is in no way an all-inclusive solution to a problem." While one of the *long term* goals of Traffic Management, as stated in the manual, is "to redirect traffic to more efficient thoroughfares allowing our neighborhoods to maintain their residential character," it's important to recognize that it is necessary to go through the proper channels to do so.

This strategy is not unlike other cities traffic policies. One important point stressed in various Traffic Calming Manuals from around the state is that installing such a device doesn't happen overnight. Orlando's Neighborhood Traffic Management pamphlet states, "an effective traffic calming plan is a complex engineering process..." In addition, because every traffic calming device may also have a disadvantage (i.e. emergency response delay, diversion to other residential roads, and noise of acceleration/deceleration) other methods to calm traffic must also be considered. Coral Springs' Manual notes that "requests [for traffic calming devices] are also reviewed...for other possible solutions." Margate Chief of Police Jerry Blough agrees, "The Team will make a careful and comprehensive evaluation of all requests, and consider all of the facts...traffic calming devices will only be implemented when warranted."

When residents have a traffic issue, the first step is to read through the manual to check for applicability to their respective concern. The next step is to fill out an application to describe the traffic issue and get neighborhood support. The City Traffic Management Team will then review the application and conduct a traffic study for the area. The Team will discuss results and options as to how the issue will be handled. Lastly, communication to the applicant will follow.

The Traffic Management Team consists of representatives from the Fire and Police departments, Public Works, City Manager's office and the Department of Environmental and Engineering Services. Some of the criteria used by city staff to evaluate the area include: traffic volume, vehicular speed, property owner concurrence and Traffic Management Team review.

Copies of the Neighborhood Traffic Management Manual will be available upon request from the Department of Environmental and Engineering Services in the month of September. D.E.E.S. is located at 901 NW 66th Avenue Margate, FL 33063. Telephone: (954) 972-0828.

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